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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/706,420

11/12/2003

Robert Murray

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EXAMINER

PRATT, HELEN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1761

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/04/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/706,420	Applicant(s) MURRAY ET AL.	
	Examiner Helen F. Pratt	Art Unit 1761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 185-212 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 185-212 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 185-212 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Auzerie (FR 2770778 A1) in view of Howard et al. (5,968,544) and Kuznicki et al. (5,681,569).

Auzerie discloses a rehydration solution composition as in claim 185 containing 20-75 meq chloride, from 0-50 meq potassium, and 40-75 meq of sodium. The composition contains water since it is a solution. The osmolality is from 150-350 m.osml. (abstract and page 2, lines 15-24). Claim 185 differs from the reference in the use of 3 types of carbohydrates .

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Sucrose and glucose are disclosed as in claim 185 (abstract). Howard et al. disclose that it is known to use starch and sugars in a composition containing electrolytes, flavors, coloring agents and clouding (col. 3, lines 55-60, col. 4, lines 5-22), also, claim 199. Kuznicki et al. disclose a beverage containing electrolytes and carbohydrates (abstract and col. 6, lines 10-15). The carbohydrates can be sucrose, corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup and sugar. Nothing critical is seen in the specification as to using three types of carbohydrates (claim 188) or particular amounts as the osmolarity has been disclosed above. The particular amounts is seen as being within the skill of the ordinary worker as in claims 189-195. Sucrose is a disaccharide and fructose is a monosaccharide. Both these types of sugars are duplicated in applicants list of carbohydrates and nothing new is seen in the use of other carbohydrates since mono and disaccharides have been disclosed by Auzerie. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use three known carbohydrates in the composition of Auzerie for their known functions particularly since no unexpected results have been shown as to using two carbohydrates instead of three.

Claims 196-198 further require particular amounts of electrolytes. However, the amounts of the references are within or near the claimed amounts. As the claimed osmolality has been shown, it would have been within the skill of the ordinary worker to vary the amounts of electrolytes to achieve the required osmolality. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use particular amounts of electrolytes to achieve a particular osmolality.

The particular amounts of carbohydrate are disclosed as in claims 186-187 by the reference to Auzerie, since the osmolality has been shown, and the claimed amounts of ions as in steps b and c which are sodium and chloride as in claims 196-198 or amounts which are almost in the claimed range as is the chloride of 20-75meq (abstract).

The beverage composition of the combined references is seen to promote fluid retention and stimulate voluntary fluid consumption since the composition has been shown.

Claim 211 is to a concentrate. The concentrate would have to contain water, if it is in solution form. Nothing new is seen in the use of a concentrate, which is merely the same composition with less water. Therefore, it would have been obvious to make a concentrate especially since no amount of water is cited in the abstract of Auzerie, making it possible to add various amounts of water to achieve the particular osmolality.

Various amounts of calcium and magnesium, are disclosed as in claims 199-205 as in Howard et al. (col. 4, lines 11-22). No amounts of flavoring agent are required in claims 206-208. These are well known ingredients common in the use of beverages. The use of particular amounts is seen as being within the skill of the ordinary worker. Howard et al. disclose that it is known to add minerals in amounts to provide the correct osmolality. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use additional electrolytes in the composition of Auzerie for their known function and to give the correct osmolality.

Claims 206 to 209 further require a flavoring agent and a clouding agent. Howard et al. as above discloses such. Particular amounts are seen as being within

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the skill of the ordinary worker. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use known flavoring agents and clouding agents in particular amounts for their known function in the composition of Auzerie (FR 2770778 A1).

Claim 212 further requires various amounts of ingredients, which have been disclosed above. The particular amount of fluid retention is seen to have been about the same since the osmolality has been shown. The discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable is ordinarily within the skill of the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 276, 205 USPQ 215, 219 (CCPA 1980). In developing a beverage product, properties such as osmolality and taste are important. It appears that the precise ingredients as well as their proportions affect the osmolality of the product, and thus are result effective variables, which one of ordinary skill in the art would routinely optimize. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use various amounts as disclosed by the combined references.

Claim 210 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above combined references as applied to the above claims, and further in view of Hutt et al. (6,730,337).

Claim 210 further requires particular amounts of citric acid. Hutt et al. discloses that it is known to use citric acid, calcium in a beverage that has an osmolality at within the claimed osmolality (abstract and col. 2, lines col. 2, lines 17-25, col. 4, lines 15-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to use known ingredients such as citric acid for its known function of adding acidity in the composition of the combined references.

ARGUMENTS

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Applicant's arguments filed 11-14-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Auzerie does not subject using a mixture of three carbohydrates or the claimed amounts of electrolytes, or that decreasing the amounts of the electrolytes would affect fluid retention, urine loss or sensory attributes. However, references have been added which show that it is known to use more than two carbohydrates (COH) in a beverage which has the claimed osmolality. In addition, as said above, no unexpected results have been shown using the three COH's. Various results have been shown for the entire composition, but as to how 3 instead of two COH'S would have affected the claimed attributes of the composition has not been shown.

Certainly, it is known that decreasing the amounts of sodium would have affected fluid retention, as it is well known that sodium containing compositions increase fluid retention, hence as with high blood pressure, one is advised to limit the amount of salt in the diet. Certainly, using particular amounts of electrolytes which have known taste attributes and varying them to make an acceptable product would have been within the skill of the ordinary worker.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen F. Pratt whose telephone number is 571-272-1404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Milton Cano, can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hp 12-29-06


HELEN PRATT
PRIMARY EXAMINER